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Professional Journal Reading #1 - Multiple Intelligences and Technology

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The developer of the multiple intelligence theory, Howard Gardner, believed that the purpose of schooling "should be to develop intelligences and to help people reach vocational and avocational goals that are appropriate to their particular spectrum of intelligences.” As our world develops and technology innovations change by the minute, as educators, we have the difficult task of linking multiple intelligences to the twenty-first century. On the EduScapes website, an article creates this link describing useful technology tools to reach the next generation of learners.

For a naturalist learner, one who learns best through interaction with the environment, the article suggest tools such as audio, video, and digital cameras to record natural world, word processing in order to journal about natural information, organizing data in a database or spreadsheet, use microscopes and probes to view nature up close, and geocaching with a GPS. As an educator under strict school budgets, it is not always accessible to allow your classes the opportunity of field trips but with the internet and technology equipment you can bring the experience of a field trip right into your classroom. Other web tools that would be applicable to a naturalist learner are Google Art Project and Skype.

The verbal, also known as linguistic, learners learn best through language including speaking, writing, reading, and listening. New technology offers a multitude of great tools for these learners. For developing speaking skills, technology tools that apply are voicethread, voice annotation in word processing, PowerPoint, audio recorders and digitizers, video recording, and chats. To create development of reading skills, readers may enjoy activities that involve news articles online, electronic reference tools such as encyclopedia and dictionaries, e-books, and reading and interpreting web information. When teaching verbal learners using listening tools teachers may want to use CD-ROM Interactive books on CD. With telecommunications tools, teachers can engage students through word processing, writing a video script, desktop publishing, story-creation software (poems, essays, and letters), email, blogging, and social networking.

Logical or mathematical learners are interested in numbers, reasoning, and problem solving. Many different software, technology tools, and interactive websites are available for logical learners. Teachers wanting to reach logical learners through technology should look for organizational tools, calculation tools (spreadsheets), online calculation tools, scientific equipment, science and math software, graphing calculators, online data collection, and webquests.

For visual/spatial learners, technology tools that are geared toward visual images and spatial organization of information are ideal for this type of learner. These “picture smart” people would gravitate toward photo sharing websites, comics, CAD - Computer-Aided Design, animation software, puzzle building tools, draw programs (Illustrator and CorelDraw), Paint programs (Photoshop, Paint, KidPix, AppleWorks), timeline making, desktop publishing, spreadsheets for charts and graphs, digital drawing pads, 3D and morphing software, scrapbooking, photo albums, slide shows, websites with visual organizers or use color, and digital camera.

To engage bodily, or kinesthetic, learners, teacher must be able to get students moving with hands on activities and constructing models. Tools to use would be keyboarding, mouse, joystick, scientific probes, microscopes and other devices for movement. Activities that would engage kinesthetic learners would include video production to create skits, dances, sports, role playing, demonstrations, animation, claymation, and virtual worlds.

The musical and rhythmic learners are interested in sound by creating and listening to sound. Video and audio recorders are great tools to introduce into any subject to connect these students in the learning. Teachers may also use sound and music clips, Music generation software, DVDs and CD-audios, books with audio elements.

Intrapersonal learners learn best through practices such as getting in touch with their feelings and self motivation. Computer-based journaling, Video projects to record personal ideas, internet research, and blogs are all great tools to connect intrapersonal students with technology. A lot of these tools center on the student being able to self pace themselves. The other side of learning, interpersonal learners enjoy social interactions with people through discussions, cooperative work, or social activities. Teachers should include blogs, email, chat, word processing to peer edit, video and teleconferencing, social networks, webquests with collaborative elements, video recording - sharing with others through skits, debates, role plays, virtual worlds, and group presentations (PowerPoint).

Overall this article presented some useful tools for producing a classroom that includes all intelligences with a focus on technology. It is interesting to note that many of these technology tools, depending on how you set up the project or activity, a teacher many be able to his article that many intelligences at one time. Finally, one criticism of this article may be that many of the technology tools were not specific to the current technology. If the webpage was updated with current web tools, I believe that this would be a tool that I would definitely share with other educators.

Works Cited

Hampton, r. (2007). In Multiple Intelligences. Retrieved Nov. 1, 2011, from http://www.lth3.k12.il.us/rhampton/mi/mi.html